

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the many courtesies extended during an interview with the Examiner on December 11, 2002.

During the interview, the examiner noted that the language “any of” found in the phrase “any of the first code, the second code, and the third code”, found in each of claims 41-44 appeared to be broader than the disclosure. Although Applicants do not believe that this is the case, the claims have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing claims 41-44 in a separate reissue application.

During the interview, the Examiner noted that, in claim 15, the phrase “transmitting the slots on the network” should immediately precede the step of “controlling the reassembly” so the steps would be in proper order. The Examiner’s position appears to be correct and the phrase has been relocated.

During the interview, the examiner noted the use of the word “the” in the phrase “the destination address” in claim 17 appeared to create an antecedent problem. The word “the” has been changed to --a-- to avoid any possible lack of clarity.

During the interview, the examiner pointed out a typographical error in claim 28, line 7. The word “fields” should be --field--. This change has been made.

In claim 33, the examiner preferred that the word “accord” in line 14, be changed to --accordance--. This change has been made.

During the interview, the examiner noted a typographical redundancy in reciting “the a coder provides.” The phrase has been changed to read --the coder provides--.

During the interview, the Examiner preferred that the occurrence of the word "the" in line 1 of claims 57 and 58 be removed. These changes have also been made.

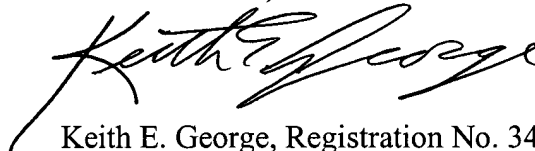
Applicants understood that these changes were the only impediments to allowance of the application. The examiner did indicate that he wanted to think about whether the current reissue declaration is sufficient in view of these changes to the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the application to reissue as a patent.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith E. George", is written over the printed name.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

15. (Amended) A method of transmitting variable length messages on a network from a source to a destination, said method comprising

segmenting each message into a plurality of fixed length slots, each of which slots includes a header field and a message segment,

providing a source identifier field in the header field of each slot, said source identifier field including a source identifier code that is uniquely associated with the message to be transmitted,

[transmitting the slots on the network,]

providing a type field in the header of each slot,

coding into the type field, a code selected from a first code, a second code, and a third code, respectively representing a beginning of a message, a continuation of a message, and an end of a message,

transmitting the slots on the network, and

controlling the reassembly of received slots at the destination in accordance with said source identifier code, the first code, the second code, and the third code.

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising

transmitting [the] a destination address field in the message segment of the first slot of the message, and

checking a destination address field associated with the message, for a match with an address associated with the destination.

28. (Amended) A method for the connection-oriented transfer of variable-length messages in fixed-length slots from a source node having a source address to a destination node having a destination address, the method comprising:

segmenting each message into a plurality of fixed-length slots including a first slot, continuing slots and a last slot, each of the slots including a header field and a message segment;

providing, in the header [fields] field of each of the slots, a source identifier code associated with the message,

providing a type field for holding a code in the header of each slot,

coding into the type field, a code selected from a first code, a second code, and a third code, respectively representing a beginning of a message, a continuation of a message, and an end of a message,

transmitting the slots from the source node; and

controlling reassembly of the message on the basis of information in the header field of slots received at the destination node.

33. (Amended) An apparatus for the connection-oriented transfer of variable-length messages in fixed-length slots from a source node, having a source address, to a destination node, having a destination address, the apparatus comprising:

a segmentation machine for segmenting each message into a plurality of fixed-length slots including a first slot, continuing slots, and a last slot, each of the fixed-length slots including a header field, and a message segment, the segmentation machine being located, in use, at the source node;

a coder for providing, in the header field of each slot,

a source identifier field for holding a source identifier code associated with the message to be transmitted, and

a type field, for holding a code selected from a first code, a second code, and a third code, respectively representing a beginning of a message, a continuation of a message, and an end of a message, and

a reassembly machine for controlling reassembly of slots into the message in [accord] accordance with information in the header field, the reassembly machine being located, in use, at the destination node.

CANCELLED [41. A method of transmitting variable length messages on a network to a destination, said method comprising

segmenting each message into a plurality of fixed length slots, each of which slots includes a header field and a message segment,

providing a source identifier field in the header field of each slot, said source identifier field including a source identifier code that is associated with the message to be transmitted,

transmitting the slots on the network,

providing a type field in the header of each slot,

coding into the type field a code selected from a first code, a second code, and a third code, respectively representing a beginning of a message, a continuation of a message, and an end of a message, and

controlling the reassembly of received slots for delivery to the destination in accordance with said source identifier code, and any of the first code, the second code, and the third code.]

CANCELLED [42. Apparatus for transmitting variable length messages on a network from a source to a destination in fixed length slots, said apparatus including;

a segmentation machine for segmenting the messages into fixed length slots, each of which includes a header field and a message segment, said segmentation machine providing

a source identifier field in the header of each slot, said source identifier field including a source identifier code that is associated with the message to be transmitted,

a type field in the header field of each slot, and

a code selected from a first code, a second code, and a third code representing, respectively, a beginning of a message, a continuation of a message and an end of a message; and

a reassembly machine controlling reassembly of the slots in accordance with the source identifier codes of the slots, and any of said first code, said second code, and said third code.]

CANCELLED [43. A method of transmitting a variable-length message on a network to a destination, said method comprising:

segmenting the variable-length message into a plurality of fixed length slots including a

first slot, continuing slots, and a last slot, each of said fixed length slots including

a header field that includes a source identifier field, and

a message segment;

providing a source identifier code in the source identifier field, said source identifier code

being associated with the variable-length message;

providing a type field in the header of each slot,
coding, into the type field, a code selected from:
a first code representing a beginning of a message,
a second code representing a continuation of a message, and
a third code, representing an end of a message;
transmitting the slots on the network; and
controlling reassembly of slots in accordance with the source identifier code, and any of
the first code, second code, and third code.]

CANCELLED [44. Apparatus for transmitting variable-length messages on a network to a destination in fixed length slots, said apparatus including:

a segmentation machine segmenting each message into a plurality of fixed length slots including a first slot, continuing slots, and a last slot, each of said slots including a header field that includes a source identifier field,
and a message segment;
a coder providing the source identifier field with a source identifier code that is associated with the message to be transmitted, a type field in the header field of each slot, and a code selected from a first code, a second code, and a third code representing, respectively, a beginning of a message, a continuation of a message and an end of a message; and
a reassembly machine controlling reassembly of slots in accordance with the source identifier codes, and any of the first code, the second code, and the third code of the slots.]

52. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 33 in which the [a] coder provides, in respective header fields of slots associated with a message, each of the first code, the second code, and the third code.

57. (Amended) A method for [the] connection-oriented transfer of variable-length messages in fixed-length slots via a source node and a destination node from a source having a source address to a destination having a destination address, the method comprising:

segmenting each message into a plurality of fixed-length slots including a first slot, continuing slots and a last slot, each of the slots including a header field and a message segment;

providing, in the header field of each of the slots, a source identifier code associated with the message,

providing a type field in the header of each slot for holding a code,

coding into the type field a code for distinguishing a last slot from prior slots;

transmitting the slots from the source node; and

controlling reassembly of the message in accordance with information in the header fields of slots received at the destination node.

58. (Amended) An apparatus for [the] connection-oriented transfer of variable-length messages in fixed-length slots via a source node and a destination node from a source having a source address, to a destination having a destination address, the apparatus comprising:

a segmentation machine for segmenting each message into a plurality of fixed-length slots including a first slot, continuing slots, and a last slot, each of the fixed-length slots including a header field, and a message segment, the segmentation machine being located, in use, at the source node;

a coder for providing, in the header field of each slot,

a source identifier field for holding a source identifier code associated with the message to be transmitted, and

a type field, for holding a code for distinguishing a last slot from previous slots; and

a reassembly machine for controlling reassembly of slots into the message in accordance with information in the header fields of slots received at the reassembly machine, the reassembly machine being located, in use, at the destination node.